

# What's New in the MPDC

NOVEMBER 4, 2002

## CHIEF RAMSEY UPDATES COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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In testimony this past week before the DC Council, Chief Ramsey and other MPDC leaders provided an update on emergency preparedness within the Police Department. Comparing emergency preparedness today with what it was a year ago, Ramsey said "we are in a much better position, than at any time in the District's history, to help keep our residents, workers and visitors safe in the event of another major emergency." The Chief outlined progress the MPDC has made in five key areas: planning and coordination, equipment, training, technology and traffic management. In the past year, for example, the Department has provided personal protective gear to all sworn members, as well as training in weapons of mass destruction and more specialized topics. In addition, the Department has made upgrades to its Joint Operations Command Center to make it more effective in supporting the management of major events. And working with the District Department of Transportation, the MPDC has developed detailed traffic plans for use in future emergencies. Internal planning, along with coordination and information-sharing with other agencies, have also been improved. "While it is impossible to plan or prepare for each and every situation that could arise, the Metropolitan Police Department has made – and will continue to make – the critical investments that are putting us in a much better position to respond to future emergencies facing our citizens," Ramsey concluded. To read the Chief complete statement before the Council, click on:

*Also at the hearing, DC Emergency Management Agency Director Peter LaPorte unveiled a newly expanded edition of DC's Family Emergency Preparedness Guide. Copies of the 12-page guide – available in English, Spanish, French and Vietnamese – can be ordered by calling (202) 727-6161, or the guide can be viewed on-line (in PDF) at: [dcema.dc.gov/info/guide.shtm](http://dcema.dc.gov/info/guide.shtm)*

[mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/10/102802.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/10/102802.shtm)

## INDEPENDENT MONITOR RELEASES NEW REPORT ON MPDC USE-OF-FORCE REFORMS

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The Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) this week issued its second quarterly report, reflecting its activities from July through September 2002 to monitor compliance with the landmark Memorandum of Agreement entered into among the District of Columbia, the MPDC and the US Department of Justice on use-of-force issues and related matters. The 60page report assesses MPDC's and the District's compliance with the full range of MOA requirements and focuses specific attention on the work of MPDC's Force Investigation Team, data entry into the Department's interim Personnel Performance Management System, and MPDC's firearms training. The report also describes the new time deadlines agreed to at the end of September among the city, MPDC, and DOJ that now will govern compliance with the MOA, which was originally agreed to on June 13, 2001. In reviewing MPDC's and the city's compliance with the MOA over the past quarter, Independent Monitor Michael Bromwich found that "MPD has undertaken significant compliance-related activities that have produced significant results." As a result of the modification of the deadlines for compliance contained by MOA, and of DOJ's approval of numerous new or revised policies and procedures (including seven General Orders relating to the use of force), the city and MPDC are no longer out of compliance with most elements of the MOA, the OIM concluded. Read the complete quarterly report (in PDF) on the OIM's website at:

*The MPDC continues to publish its own progress reports on MOA implementation. The latest report (in PDF) is available at: [mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT\\_progress\\_1002.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_1002.pdf)*

[www.policemonitor.org/0201101.pdf](http://www.policemonitor.org/0201101.pdf)

## DISTRICT LEADERS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL BALLISTICS DATABASE

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**D**C Mayor Anthony Williams joined Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, various DC Councilmembers and other District officials in calling for enactment of a national firearms ballistics database to help law enforcement more quickly and easily identify firearms used in crimes. At a news conference near the site where DC resident Pascal Charlot was

*For information on gun laws in DC and gun safety tips for parents, click on:*

**[mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/gunsafety.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/gunsafety.shtm)**

*Also this week, DC Councilmembers Kathy Patterson and Adrian Fenty introduced legislation asking Congress to require all states to participate in the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which allows timely comparisons of fingerprints across multiple jurisdictions. While DC participates in IAFIS, several states do not, which can potentially hamper multi-state investigations, the Councilmembers said.*

shot in a sniper homicide in early October, Williams and other political leaders announced their support for a national database that would include ballistics information from firearms sold in the US. The officials said that when a gun is used in a crime, such a database would help law enforcement identify the weapon and trace its ownership. Chief Ramsey said the current federal ballistics database, which includes information from only those weapons that have already been associated with a previous crime, has proven effective in linking different gun crimes and criminals. He said an expanded database, while not a panacea to solving gun crimes, would provide law enforcement with an important investigative tool. For more information, go to:

**[dc.gov/mayor/news/index.asp](http://dc.gov/mayor/news/index.asp)**

## MPDC PARTICIPATES IN HYPOTHERMIA WATCH PROGRAM

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**W**ith hypothermia season officially beginning November 1, DC officials this week announced the kickoff of the Hypothermia Watch Partner public information campaign. Residents, business owners and others are encouraged to call the Hypothermia Shelter Hotline at 1 (800) 535-7252 to report the location of people who may need help. The DC Department of Human Services coordinates shelter and other services for the homeless during hypothermia season. DHS also manages the Hypothermia Watch Partner Campaign in partnership with the MPDC, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Department of Mental Health, DC Department of Health, and the DC Emergency Management Agency. In addition to helping to publicize the shelter hotline, MPDC officers will once again assist with identifying potential hypothermia victims and directing them to shelters and other resources. For details about DC's Hypothermia Watch program, click on:

**[dhs.dc.gov/serv/hypothermia.shtm](http://dhs.dc.gov/serv/hypothermia.shtm)**

## UPCOMING

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**M**ark Your Calendars! The MPDC's third annual Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2002, at 7 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall. This free event honors police officers, civilian employees and community members who have made a difference in fighting crime and building safer neighborhoods. For more information, contact Michael D. Scott in the MPDC at (202) 727-4771.

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

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